



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Send-off planned for 560 Wisconsin National Guard infantry soldiers Saturday

Gov. Doyle will lead send-off event at Volk Field

State, local and military officials are planning a huge send-off ceremony Saturday for about 560 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers who were mobilized today.

The soldiers are members of 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, headquartered in Madison, with units in Fort Atkinson, Elkhorn, Oconomowoc, Hartford, Baraboo, Reedsburg and Watertown.

In addition, the battalion is being augmented by 114 soldiers from the Kenosha-based 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery and about 80 from the Portage-based 132nd Support Battalion who will be folded into the unit to form the battalion's Company D. Nearly 40 other soldiers come from the 32nd Infantry Brigade headquarters at Camp Williams and headquarters detachment in Wausau, and nearly 30 other Wisconsin Army National Guard units from around the state are also providing small numbers of soldiers. **[Note: a complete list of units providing soldiers to the infantry battalion is included at the end of this news release]**

The battalion will leave Wisconsin Saturday, Aug. 20, for mobilization processing and several months of additional training at Camp Shelby, Miss., before deploying overseas for one full year.

The entire battalion will gather with their families for a send-off on Saturday, Aug. 20, at Volk Field Air National Guard Base near Camp Douglas, Wis. Following a noon ceremony outside a large aircraft hangar, soldiers will have a few final hours with their families until boarding one of several chartered airliners that will fly them to Mississippi.

The Volk Field send-off ceremony will be led by Gov. Jim Doyle, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening and Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson. Other senior military officials will also be on hand, along with elected public officials and soldiers' families. Several thousand family members are expected at Volk Field for the send-off.

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Music for the ceremony will be provided by the Guard's 132nd Army Band of Madison, which has played for similar send-off and welcome home events for Guard units from around the state. The band will also entertain troops and their families throughout the afternoon.

Local send-offs were scheduled in several of the battalion's hometown communities this week.

Mobilization of 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry brings the total number of Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard members now on active duty to just over 3,000. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,650 soldiers and airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard — nearly 70 percent of the Guard's 9,400 member force — have served on active duty.

About 1,800 soldiers and airmen of the Wisconsin National Guard are presently serving overseas, and more than 1,000 other currently mobilized soldiers are bound for eventual overseas duty.

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Other Wisconsin Army National Guard units providing soldiers to 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 32nd Infantry Brigade — Camp Williams (9 soldiers)
- Det. 1, HHC, 32nd Infantry Brigade — Wausau (30 soldiers)
- Headquarters and Headquarters Btry., 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery — Kenosha (54 soldiers)
- Battery A, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery — Whitewater (7 soldiers)
- Battery B (Rear), 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery — Oak Creek (6 soldiers)
- Battery C, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery — Racine (4 soldiers)
- Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery — Burlington (43 soldiers)
- Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 132nd Support Battalion — Portage (10 soldiers)
- Det. 1, HHC, 132nd Support Battalion — Madison (6 soldiers)
- Company A, 132nd Support Battalion — Janesville (2 soldiers)
- Company B, 132nd Support Battalion — Mauston (30 soldiers)
- Det. 1, Company B, 132nd Support Battalion — Onalaska (16 soldiers)
- Company C, 132nd Support Battalion — Milwaukee (15 soldiers)
- Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry — Appleton (3 soldiers)
- Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry — Waupun (2 soldiers)
- Det. 1, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry — Ripon (1 soldier)
- Company B, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry — Green Bay (2 soldiers)
- Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry — Fond du Lac (5 soldiers)
- Company D, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry — Marinette (3 soldiers)
- Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — Eau Claire (4 soldiers)
- Det. 1, HHC, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — Abbotsford (1 soldier)
- Company A, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — Menomonie (2 soldiers)
- Company B, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — New Richmond (1 soldier)
- Det. 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — Rice Lake (1 soldier)

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- Company C, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — Arcadia (2 soldiers)
- Det. 1, Company C, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — Neillsville (1 soldier)
- Company D, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry — River Falls (2 soldiers)
- Det. 1, Co. A, 724th Engineer Battalion — Chippewa Falls (1 soldier)
- Det. 1, Co. B, 724th Engineer Battalion — Superior (3 soldiers)
- Co. C, 724th Engineer Battalion — Tomahawk (1 soldier)
- Det. 1, Co. C, 724th Engineer Battalion — Rhinelander (2 soldiers)
- 106th Engineer Detachment — Ashland (2 soldiers)
- HHS, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery — Milwaukee (1 soldier)
- Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation — Madison (1 soldier)
- 32nd Engineer Company — Onalaska (5 soldiers)
- Det. 1, 32nd Military Police Company — Madison (1 soldier)
- Headquarters, 64th Troop Command — Madison (2 soldiers)
- 426th Regiment — Fort McCoy (1 soldier)
- Det. 1, Troop E, 105th Cavalry — Antigo (1 soldier)
- Headquarters and Headquarters Btry., 57th Field Artillery Brigade — Milwaukee (2 soldiers)
- 64th Support Detachment — Monroe (1 soldier)

Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the send-off of 560 soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry at Volk Field Saturday, Aug. 20.

News media access to the base will be available after 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The official send-off ceremony will begin at 12:00 p.m. and last approximately 30 minutes. Soldiers will depart Volk Field aboard several chartered civilian airliners during the afternoon. From the end of the ceremony until they are called to board a flight, soldiers will have time together with their families at the airfield. News media may conduct interviews with consenting soldiers and family members. Senior military officials and public affairs officers will also be available for questions.

News media organizations wishing to cover the Volk Field send-off event must contact Tim Donovan (608-242-3050 or Cell 608-516-1777) so arrangements can be made for access to the military installation. Volk Field is located at Exit 55 off Interstate 90-94 in Juneau County.

Current National Guard News Releases available at: <http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp>